

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 168604
ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 SIG-03
INSE-00 VO-03 /060 R

DRAFTED BY HA/ORM: JBROH-KAHN:EH
APPROVED BY HA/ORM: HBCUSHING
-----014463 032330Z /66

O P 032248Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 168604

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: 25 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES ON LIBERIAN SHIP CYS HOPE

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REF: A. STATE 167508, B. BROH-KAHN/LEVEN TELECON,
C. COLOMBO 2923, 3021, 3026, 3027

1. UNDERSTAND FROM REF B THAT LIBERIAN SHIP CYS HOPE'S
NEXT PORT OF CALL AFTER COLOMBO IS JAPAN. SINCE LI-
BERIAN GOVERNMENT HAS, AS FAR AS DEPT KNOWS, NEVER
GIVEN GUARANTEE CURRENTLY REQUIRED BY GOJ TO ACCEPT ALL
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PAGE 02 STATE 168604

REFUGEES NOT ACCEPTED BY OTHER COUNTRIES, JAPAN MAY WELL
REFUSE TO LET REFUGEES DISEMBARK THERE.

2. THEREFORE, EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE BY UNHCR,
REPRESENTED BY UNDP IN SRI LANKA, TO PERSUADE THAT
GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW REFUGEES TO DISEMBARK IN COLOMBO.

3. GENEVA SHOULD URGE UNHCR TO INSTRUCT UNDP REP TO ACCOMPLISH THAT END. ALSO ASK UNHCR TO PRESS OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS CANADA, SWISS, AND SCANDINAVIANS TO ACCEPT REFUGEES FROM CYS HOPE. BASED ON REF C, US IS EXPECTED TO TAKE AN ESTIMATED 15, OUT OF 25 TOTAL, WHO HAVE CLOSE RELATIVES IN US, AS WELL AS ANY WHO FORMERLY WORKED FOR USG. FRENCH SHOULD BE URGED BY UNHCR IN COLOMBO AND GENEVA TO DO THE SAME FOR THOSE WITH TIES

TO FRANCE. WE HOPE CANADA WILL TAKE SOME AS IT DID FROM GREEK SHIP TAMY DOCKED IN MOMBASA KENYA, PARTICULARLY SINCE CANADA, AS FAR AS DEPT KNOWS, HAS NOT FULFILLED ITS OFFER TO TAKE 50 FAMILIES A MONTH FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA.

4. GENEVA SHOULD ALSO URGE UNHCR NOT ONLY TO GET REFUGEES LANDED IN COLOMBO, BUT ALSO TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY CARE AND MAINTENANCE FOR THEM THERE. U.S. HAS ALREADY BEGUN PROCESSING CAT. I AND II REFUGEES, ACCORDING TO INSTRUCTIONS REF A., BUT SECURITY CLEARANCES AND VERIFICATION OF RELATIVES OR EMPLOYMENT WILL ALL TAKE SOME TIME. FOLLOWING THESE, INS OFFICER WILL HAVE TO APPROVE REFUGEES IN COLOMBO, AND IT WILL TAKE MORE TIME TO OBTAIN SPONSORS. FINALLY, AFTER ALL ABOVE ARE COMPLETED, REFUGEES CANNOT BE MOVED FROM COLOMBO TO US UNTIL FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 168604

LRP AFTER CONGRESS APPROVES HA/ORM SUPPLEMENTAL LEGISLATION FOR FY78.

5. FOR COLOMBO: APPRECIATE QUICK RESPONSE TO PROBLEM PRESENTED BY HOPE, BUT VISAS FALCON NAMECHECK AND BIOGRAPHIC CABLES DO NOT REQUIRE NIACT PRECEDENCE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE168604
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: KAHN:EH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780274-0805
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780798/aaaadexw.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 62c37c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN HA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 167508, 78 COLOMBO 2923
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2123822
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 25 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES ON LIBERIAN SHIP CYS HOPE -
TAGS: SREF
To: GENEVA COLOMBO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/62c37c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014